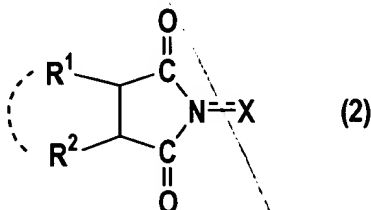


IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

34. (Amended) A process according to any of claim 1, 19, 29 or 33 wherein the imide compound is an imide compound represented by the following formula (2);



wherein R^1 and R^2 are the same or different, each representing a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, a cycloalkyl group, a hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, or an acyl group; R^1 and R^2 may bond together to form a double bond or an aromatic- or non-aromatic ring; the aromatic- or non-aromatic ring composed of R^1 and R^2 may have at least one imide unit represented by the formula (1); and X has the same meaning as defined above.